



THE Hans India



15-yr-old Inaara bags top global rankings
The Federation Equestre Internationale (FEI) has officially declared its rankings for the FEI World Dressage Challenge (WDC) 2025, with India's young equestrian talent, Inaara Mehta Luthria, delivering an exceptional performance. **P6**

Firecracker units have become the new killers
Firecrackers have become deadly! If vendors who run these businesses like those running shops in the ordinary market-selling goods without following safety regulations-are allowed to make fireworks and firecrackers in the run-up to Diwali with unskilled. **P4**

Indian Americans rank No.1 in US earnings
Indian-American households have emerged as the highest earners among major ethnic groups in the United States, with a median annual income of about \$151,200, according to a report citing Pew Research Center findings. **P7**

Priyanka Chopra channels 'Mandakini Vibes' at Vanity Fair Oscars Party 2026
Global icon Priyanka Chopra turned heads with a bold and elegant fashion statement at the Vanity Fair Oscars Party 2026, effortlessly bringing "Mandakini vibes" to the red carpet. The actress arrived alongside her husband Nick Jonas, and the couple exuded. **P8**

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RAMZAN TIMINGS
IFTAR (Wed) 06:32 PM
SEHAR (Thu) 04:59 AM

WINDOWS
Suspension of 8 Lok Sabha MPs revoked

NEW DELHI: The Lok Sabha on Tuesday revoked with immediate effect the suspension of eight opposition members who were barred from the House on February 3 for "unruly" behaviour, with Speaker Om Birla stressing that there should be no display of placards, posters, photos or AI-generated images inside the House or in the Parliament complex. Congress member K Suresh requested the House to consider the revocation of the eight opposition members, saying whatever had happened in the House was regrettable, and that his party was ready to cooperate in the smooth functioning of the House. Following the submissions by several opposition members, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju said there was a need to draw a "Laxman Rekha" for the smooth functioning of the House, which both treasury and opposition benches agreed to.

6-year-old girl raped in southwest Delhi

NEW DELHI: A person has been arrested for allegedly raping a six-year-old girl from his locality in southwest Delhi's Chhawla area, police said on Tuesday. The incident came to light after the minor narrated the alleged events to her mother, who subsequently approached the authorities, they said. According to the complainant, the girl, who lives with her family in Chhawla area, was playing near a school along with her younger sister when a man -- who was known to the family and ran a shop nearby -- took her to his premises and sexually assaulted her.

4 arrested in Varanasi for Iftar on boat in Ganga

VARANASI: Fourteen people have been arrested on charges of defiling a place of worship and hurting religious feelings after a video purportedly showing them participating in an Iftar meal, eating biryani on a boat, on the Ganga river in Varanasi, officials said on Tuesday.

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IRREGULAR by MANJUL
CROSS VOTE
How can we trust them to vote on bills when they cannot even vote properly in Rajya Sabha elections?

US counterterror chief quits over Iran war

Joseph Kent warned against repeating past mistakes such as the Iraq war and urged a reassessment of US policy; Iran commander who ordered reprisals against protestors killed; Will be wrapped up soon: Trump on Iran-US war

TEXAS
JOSEPH Kent has resigned as Director of the National Counterterrorism Center, citing objections to the ongoing United States-Israel war in Iran, according to a resignation letter addressed to President Donald Trump. In the letter, Kent said he could not 'in good conscience' support the war, asserting that Iran posed no imminent threat to the United States and alleging that the conflict was driven by pressure from Israel and its American lobby. He also warned against repeating past mistakes such as the Iraq war and urged a

reassessment of US policy. Iranian state media, Press TV on Tuesday shared a first-person view (FPV) of a drone flying over the US embassy compound in Baghdad. Israeli Defence Forces confirmed the killing of Gholamreza Soleimani, the commander of Iran's Basij Unit. According to the Jerusalem Post, the IDF confirmed the death of the head of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps' Basij paramilitary militia, Gholamreza Soleimani, and his deputy, Seyyed Karishi. As per the report, the two were killed in a makeshift tent area, which had been set up to make it harder to



follow them as opposed to in a known headquarters. The Israeli Health Ministry has reported that 3,530 people have sustained injuries and been admitted to hospitals since the outbreak of the war. Providing a breakdown of the current medical status, the ministry stated that 86 individuals are presently hospitalised, including eight patients in serious condition. US President Donald Trump said that the ongoing conflict involving Iran would end soon, saying the situation would be "wrapped up" shortly and would ultimately result in a safer world. Trump said that the war could be "wrapped up soon", adding, "It won't be long. And we're going to have a much safer world when it's wrapped up. It'll be wrapped up soon. We're going to have a much safer world. I had an obligation to do this. I didn't want to," Trump said.

LPG shortage: Centre puts up its hands in HC

MUMBAI

THE Central government on Tuesday assured the Bombay High Court that it is making all attempts on domestic and international fronts to address the hardship caused by the LPG shortage amid the ongoing conflict in West Asia. The Nagpur bench of the court accepted the Centre's submission and disposed of the petition filed by LPG distributors, noting that it is taking "all the necessary steps in the matter to protect the interests of individuals". Solicitor General of India Tushar Mehta, appearing via video-conference, informed the court that it

Solicitor General of India Tushar Mehta, appearing via video-conference, informed the court that it was making all attempts on domestic and international levels to address the hardship caused by the shortage of LPG; 3 lakh metric tonnes LPG stranded at Strait of Hormuz: Centre



was making all attempts on domestic and international levels to address the hardship caused by the shortage of LPG. Steps are being taken to ensure that the international crisis does not affect India, he said. As much as 3 lakh metric tonnes of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) is presently stranded at the Strait of Hormuz, Rajesh

Kumar Sinha, special secretary at ministry of ports, shipping, and waterways said on March 17. Punjab-based LPG distributors said there was an "inadequate" supply of LPG, despite the Union government and oil marketing companies claiming adequate availability and demanded an increase in cooking gas supplies to clear the backlog.

Budget to have key initiatives for women, girls: CM Rekha

HANS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

DELHI Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Tuesday said there will be major announcements for women and girls in Budget 2026-27 to be tabled in the Delhi Assembly later this month. Attending the 'Nari Utsav' programme at Nirmal Chhaya Complex, she lauded women for their nation-building role, said a statement from the Delhi Chief Minister's Office (CMO).

She announced that the upcoming Delhi Budget to be presented on March 24 will include key initiatives for women and girls.

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women and children, citing various schemes including 'Lakhpati Bitiya' and 'Pink Saheli' smart cards for free bus travel to women. Highlighting the importance of self-help groups (SHGs), she said women in Delhi will be provided employment and entrepreneurship opportunities through small group-based models, and stressed the need to expand platforms

like 'Mahila Haat' to help women showcase and sell their products. "The Delhi government's focus is not just on launching schemes but on ensuring their effective implementation so that benefits reach every needy individual," Gupta said. The chief minister also inspected Nirmal Chhaya complex including the care home for women, Balika Grih and Bal Niketan, and enquired about facilities being provided to the occupants of these homes. She visited Sankalp Hub, where activities related to women's safety, awareness and empowerment under Mission Shakti were showcased. At the SHG-run 'Mahila Haat', she reviewed local products and exhibitions, including nutritious millet-based dishes.

Woman killed as 'unsafe' bridge collapses in Roop Nagar

HANS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

A 60-foot iron bridge over a drain collapsed in north Delhi's Roop Nagar area on Tuesday morning, killing a woman, officials said. Police said the bridge had been declared unsafe and was closed for public movement with barricades. Locals informed that the woman, who seemed to be a beggar, would often sit at one end of the bridge. A PCR call regarding the bridge collapse was received at around 9.28 am, following which police and emergency teams rushed to the spot, police said. The bridge was found to have collapsed into the drain below. Rescue personnel recovered the body of the woman, believed to be around 50 years old, a senior police officer said.

Personnel from the Delhi Fire Service (DFS), National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and Delhi Police carried out coordinated rescue operations at the site. Multiple fire tenders were pressed into service for it. Visuals showed rescue personnel sliding down the broken bridge using ropes to get to the drain to find the woman. Police said efforts are underway to ascertain her identity. An NDRF official said they received information about the incident around 10.15 am. "On assessing the situation, we found that the drain had a strong current.

Hike EPF pension to Rs 7,500: Parl panel

HANS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

A Parliamentary panel on Tuesday recommended an urgent, comprehensive review of the Rs 1,000 minimum monthly pension under the Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995, to raise it to a more realistic and dignified level. This assumes significance in view of pensioners' demand to raise the pension to Rs 7,500 per month, as Rs 1,000 is not sufficient to make both ends meet.

Pensioners under the Employees' Pension Scheme 1995 (EPS-95) run by the retirement fund body EPFO had also staged a three-day protest at Jantar Mantar from March 9, for increasing the minimum monthly pension to Rs 7,500. The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Labour, Textiles and Skill



Development, in its 15th Report on 'Demands for Grants (2026-27)' of the Ministry of Labour and Employment, noted that the minimum pension of Rs 1,000 per month under the Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995, has remained unchanged for a considerable period of time despite the rising cost of living. During the course of evidence, the committee observed that numerous representations have been received from pensioners seeking an upward revision of the minimum pension, particularly considering the financial hardships faced by elderly and economically vulnerable beneficiaries.

400 AFGHANS KILLED IN PAK ATTACK

HANS NEWS SERVICE ISLAMABAD

PAKISTAN carried out "precision airstrikes" targeting what it described as terrorists and their support infrastructure locations across Afghanistan, but the Afghan government accused Islamabad of bombing a rehabilitation hospital in Kabul, killing at least 400 people. The latest strikes came as Operation Ghazab lil Haq, launched on February 26, contin-

ued, according to Pakistan's Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. Pakistan launched the operation in response to alleged attacks by the Afghan Taliban forces along the 2,600-km-long border. "Pakistan's Armed Forces successfully carried out precision airstrikes on the night of 16 March as a part of Operation Ghazab Lil Haq, targeting Afghan Taliban regime terrorism sponsoring military installations in Kabul and Nangarhar," Information Minister Attaullah Tarar

said in a post on X. He claimed that the technical support infrastructure and ammunition storage facilities at two locations in Kabul were effectively destroyed. "The visible secondary detonations after the strikes clearly indicate the presence of large ammunition depots," he added. He claimed four Afghan Taliban regime "terrorism sponsoring" military sites were also struck in Nangarhar, destroying associated logistics, ammunition and technical infrastructure.

No govt job through employment offices in Raj in 5 yrs

HANS NEWS SERVICE JAIPUR

MORE than 22 lakh unemployed youth are currently registered with employment offices across Rajasthan, according to information obtained under the RTI Act. It was further revealed that no candidate was recruited in the government sector through the employment offices in the past five years.

The data, provided by the Directorate of Employment, shows that as of January 14, a total of 22,21,317 candi-

More than 22 lakh unemployed youth are currently registered with employment offices across the State; OBC form the largest share among registered job seekers, followed by General, SC, ST and other categories

dates were registered as job seekers in district employment offices across the state. Of these, over 13.08 lakh were male, 9.12 lakh female, and 989 fell under the 'other' category. Among districts, Jaipur recorded the highest number of registered unemployed people at 2.51 lakh, followed by Alwar (1.53 lakh), Nagaur (1.34



lakh), Jhunjhunu (1.22 lakh) and Jodhpur (86,320). In contrast, Jaisalmer (12,031) and Pratapgarh (14,047)

reported the lowest number of registered candidates. The category-wise data indicates that candidates from

the Other Backward Classes (OBC) form the largest share among registered job seekers, followed by general, Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST) and other categories. The data further revealed the limited placements in the private sector during the past five years. According to the information provided, 86 candidates were placed in 2021, 825 in 2022, three in 2023, 23 in 2024 and 71 in 2025 through employment office initiatives, including job

fairs and coordination with private companies. "The private sector has seen high growth in the last two decades.

Investment in crores, but the jobs provided by the directorate are miniscule. Permanent and temporary jobs in the government sector through the directorate seem to have completely stopped. There is a need to activate unemployment offices and refer candidates," Right to Information (RTI) applicant Chandra Shekhar Gaur said.